

Taylor, Liane

From: McCue, Kevin
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 9:17 AM
To: Taylor, Liane
Subject: FW: Comments on SB 226

Exhibit No. 7
Date 2/1/2011
SB 226

From: Dean Williamson [<mailto:dwilliamsonmt@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 8:21 AM
To: McCue, Kevin
Subject: Comments on SB 226

Mr. McCue,

Below are concerns regarding the SB 226, which I would like distributed to all of the members of the Senate Energy & Telecommunications committee. Thank you.

Dear Energy & Telecommunications Committee:

I write to you to express my concerns about the SB 226. I use concerns, because that is my "best-behavior" language. Truly, I find this bill outrageous.

I fail to understand how you can entertain the notion of coddling a behemoth corporation like Northwestern Energy. Surely, as a monopoly, it needs no special care from the State, no protected status. This is a company with no competition, and yet, your bill aims to allow it yet another means to gouge consumers. f Z™±" "f-± ~" "™±"

I am a small-scale vegetable farmer. I engage in competition with larger, more-well-financed and coddled behemoths every day (see: gigantic federal food subsidies) that makes my job doubly difficult. I enjoy competition and I welcome the discussion of what makes my product superior.

With energy, there is no such competition. So, already, monopolies like Northwestern are anathema to democracy, to conservatives, and to the principles of the free market.

And, NOW you want to enable them another way to fleece their existing customers? This goes against the ethic of fair play. This is anti-business as you are clearly playing favorites. This is anti-Republican as you are a government giving aid and assistance to business. This is anti-environment, too, but this last issue is mere window dressing on the house of ethical ill-repute that is this bill.

Shame. I thought Montana was about liberty and integrity. I thought Republicans were about the free market, not government intervention. I thought conservatives wanted more competition, not less.

Woe to you who pass this bill and then claim to represent anything other than government handouts, fair play, free markets, or anything looking like good business.

I urge that this bill never see the floor of the Senate.

Sincerely,
Dean Williamson

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Dean Williamson
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